IN THE CLAIMS:

1-9. (cancelled)

10.(currently amended) ~~The underpinning pile forming segment according to claim 8~~ An underpinning pile forming segment comprising a body defining a cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a cooperating extension affixed on said first end for engaging and interlocking with a cooperating depression affixed on a first different underpinning pile and said second end comprising a cooperating depression affixed on said second end for engaging and interlocking with a cooperating extension affixed on a second different underpinning pile, wherein said depression has a bottom and at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression.

11.(currently amended) ~~The underpinning pile forming segment according to claim 9 wherein~~ An underpinning pile forming segment comprising a body defining a cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a cooperating extension, said extension has at least one tab on a distal end thereof, for engaging a cooperating depression and interlocking with a cooperating element affixed on a first different underpinning pile and said second end comprising a cooperating depression, said depression [[has]] having a bottom and at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression, for engaging a cooperating extension and interlocking with a cooperating

element affixed on a second different underpinning pile.

12-13. (cancelled)

13.(new) A process of installing segmented underpinning piles for supporting a structure upon the earth comprising the steps of:

removing a volume of earth from beneath a portion of the structure;

positioning a first pile segment below said portion of said structure, said first pile segment comprising a body defining a cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, (a) said first end comprising a cooperating extension affixed on said first end for engaging and interlocking with a cooperating depression affixed on a first different underpinning pile and (b) said second end comprising a cooperating depression affixed on said second end for engaging and interlocking with a cooperating extension affixed on a second different underpinning pile, wherein said depression has a bottom and at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression;

placing a jack between said first pile segment and said portion of said structure;

driving said first pile segment a distance into unexcavated earth said first pile segment having an end extending out of the earth for engaging and interlocking with a second cooperating element affixed on a second pile segment comprising a body defining a cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, (a) said first end comprising a cooperating extension affixed on said first end for engaging and interlocking with a cooperating depression affixed on a first different underpinning pile and (b) said

second end comprising a cooperating depression affixed on said second end for engaging and interlocking with a cooperating extension affixed on a second different underpinning pile, wherein said depression has a bottom and at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression;

engaging and interlocking a cooperating end of said first pile segment with a cooperating end of said second pile segment; whereby lateral stability of the interlocked pile segments is provided in the absence of a connecting cable between said pile segments; and

driving said second pile segment another distance into the earth.

14.(new) A process of installing segmented underpinning piles for supporting a structure upon the earth comprising the steps of:

removing a volume of earth from beneath a portion of the structure;

positioning a first pile segment below said portion of said structure, said first pile segment comprising a body defining a cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, (a) said first end comprising a cooperating extension, said extension has at least one tab on a distal end thereof, for engaging a cooperating depression and interlocking with a cooperating element affixed on a first different underpinning pile and (b) said second end comprising a cooperating depression, said depression [[has]] having a bottom and at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression, for engaging

a cooperating extension and interlocking with a cooperating element affixed on a second different underpinning pile;

placing a jack between said first pile segment and said portion of said structure;

driving said first pile segment a distance into unexcavated earth said first pile segment having an end extending out of the earth for engaging and interlocking with a second cooperating element affixed on a second pile segment comprising a body defining a cylindrical configuration, having a first end and a second end, (a) said first end comprising a cooperating extension, said extension has at least one tab on a distal end thereof, for engaging a cooperating depression and interlocking with a cooperating element affixed on a first different underpinning pile and (b) said second end comprising a cooperating depression, said depression [[has]] having a bottom and at least one slot extending into said depression and a second slot extending annularly about said bottom of said depression into a wall of said depression, for engaging a cooperating extension and interlocking with a cooperating element affixed on a second different underpinning pile;

engaging and interlocking a cooperating end of said first pile segment with a cooperating end of said second pile segment; whereby lateral stability of the interlocked pile segments is provided in the absence of a connecting cable between said pile segments; and

driving said second pile segment another distance into the earth.